



**Budget Amendment  
CITY OF AUSTIN  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 16  
AGENDA DATE: Thu 04/28/2005  
PAGE: 1 of 2**

**SUBJECT:** Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$49,776 from WORKSOURCE–GREATER AUSTIN AREA WORKFORCE BOARD, Austin, TX, and amending the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Health and Human Services Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 040913-01 to appropriate \$49,776 for targeted workforce skills training and job placement services.

**AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING:** Funding in the amount of \$49,776 is available from the WorkSource – Greater Austin Area Workforce Board. The grant period is from April 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005. No City match is required.

**FISCAL NOTE:** A fiscal note is attached.

**REQUESTING** Health and Human  
**DEPARTMENT:** Services

**DIRECTOR'S  
AUTHORIZATION:** David Lurie

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director for Human Services, 972-5011; Susan Gehring, Program Manager, 972-5026; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:** Approved 2004-2005 Operating Budget, September 13, 2004

**BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION:** N/A

---

**Background**

In December 2004, the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department funded a pilot project at Goodwill Industries, which uses a modified approach to provide eligible clients with the knowledge and skills to obtain and retain employment in the Austin job market. The project, Employment Connections, targets clients who are residents of areas in East Austin who have the highest unemployment and poverty rates.

Traditional workforce training for this population includes training in: life skills management, customer service, computer skills, and clerical skills. It is followed-up with job search preparation and job placement services. Typically, the success rate of these clients retaining employment for at least six months is 50 percent. The Employment Connections pilot project modifies this approach by soliciting participating employers "upfront," selecting a client who has the potential to be "trained into" the employer's position, and tailoring each of the client's training components to the stated needs of the participating employer. Following placement, clients receive a "work release" from their employers – nominally one-half day per week –to receive their tailored training. Another key aspect that differentiates this program from the traditional approach is that clients also receive substantial supportive services and job retention coaching for up to six (6) months after placement that enables and motivates clients to maintain their employment. History has shown that, under the traditional approach, clients are at risk of dropping their employment due to various circumstances such as loss of child care, employer/employee relationship difficulties, etcetera. The provision of follow-up supportive services and coaching can significantly reduce this dropout risk. The purpose of this Employment Connections pilot project is to



**Budget Amendment  
CITY OF AUSTIN  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 16  
AGENDA DATE: Thu 04/28/2005  
PAGE: 2 of 2**

demonstrate that this modified employment training approach will result in (1) improved retention and job satisfaction for low-income clients, and (2) improved employer satisfaction. The program goal is to raise the success rate of clients retaining employment for at least six months from 50% to 75%.

WorkSource is continually seeking methods to achieve more effective workforce training and increased job retention. They recognize the potential of the Employment Connections pilot project at Goodwill Industries and have awarded the City of Austin a grant in the amount of \$49,776 with which to expand the present pilot program. This grant is for nine (9) months. All 40 clients will have entered employment by the grant end date, December 31, 2005.

**Performance Measures**

**Related Departmental Goals**

Provision: Social Services – Promote and foster increased self-sufficiency, healthy behaviors, and lifestyle among targeted populations.

**Output Measure**

- Forty (40) unduplicated clients will receive intensive case management job training tailored to the needs of the employer partners, supportive services, and job retention services.

**Results Measure**

- Thirty of the 40 unduplicated clients (75%) will retain their employment for at least 30 days after placement, with continued monthly monitoring for six months.

**Requested Council Action**

Council is requested to approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$49,776 from WORKSOURCE–GREATER AUSTIN AREA WORKFORCE BOARD, Austin, TX and amending the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Health and Human Services Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 040913-01 to appropriate \$49,776 for targeted workforce skills training and job placement services.

**OPERATING BUDGET  
Fiscal Note**

**DATE OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:**  
**WHERE ON AGENDA:**  
**DEPARTMENT:**

4/28/2005  
Ordinance  
Health and Human Services

**SUBJECT:** Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$49,776 from Worksource-Greater Austin Area Workforce Board and amending the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Health and Human Services Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 040913-01 to appropriate \$49,776 for targeted workforce skills training and job placement services.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

	<u>Approved Budget 2004-2005</u>	<u>Impact of this Action</u>	<u>Amended Budget 2004-2005</u>
Special Revenue Fund WorkSource - Greater Austin Area Workforce Board 04/01/2005 - 12/31/2005	\$0	\$49,776	\$49,776
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$49,776</u>	<u>\$49,776</u>
<b>FTEs</b>	-	0.00	-

**AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING:** Funding in the amount of \$49,776 is available from the WorkSource - Greater Austin Area Workforce Board.

Budget Office: \_\_\_\_\_

*Maria FZ*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*4-11-05*

**ORDINANCE NO.**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS AND AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET OF ORDINANCE NO. 040913-01 TO APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

**PART 1. The Council authorizes the acceptance of \$49,776 in grant funds from Worksource-Greater Austin Area Workforce Board.**

**PART 2.** The Council amends the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 040913-01 to appropriate \$49,776 to provide targeted workforce skills training and job placement services for the Employment Connections pilot project.

**PART 3.** The Council finds that the need to amend the budget constitutes an emergency, a grave public necessity, and an unusual and unforeseen condition that could not, by reasonable diligence, have been included in the original budget for the current fiscal year. Because of this emergency, this ordinance takes effect immediately on its passage for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

**PASSED AND APPROVED**

**www.pearsoned.com**

\_\_\_\_\_, 2005

**Will Wynn**  
Mayor

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
David Allan Smith  
City Attorney

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Shirley A. Brown  
City Clerk